

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 95-462-G - ORDER NO. 95-376
FEBRUARY 15, 1995

IN RE: Request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company) ORDER
 for a Waiver of Commission Rule 103-421) GRANTING
 Relating to the Minimum and Maximum) WAIVER
 Number of Days in Billing Cycles.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont) for a temporary waiver of Regulation 103-421. This Regulation reads as follows:

Unless extenuating circumstances prevent, meters shall be read and bills rendered on a monthly basis of not less than 28 days nor more than 34 days.

Piedmont asks that this Regulation be waived for the February and March billing cycles. Piedmont is in the process of implementing a new Customer Information/Billing System (CIS). Piedmont notes that in the process of implementing this new CIS system, it is necessary for Piedmont to have as few as twenty-four (24) days in a billing cycle. The next month the billing cycle will correspondingly be lengthened. According to Piedmont, converting the system during February, which has only 28 days, contributed to the problem. Piedmont believes that the implementation of a new system qualifies as an "unusual difficulty" under Regulation 103-401(3). Under this section, the Commission

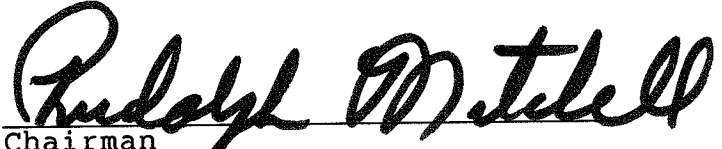
may waive the application of any regulation when compliance with the regulation introduces unusual difficulty upon a finding by the Commission that such waiver is in the public interest.

The Commission has examined this matter and believes that introduction of a new billing system certainly introduces unusual difficulty for the February and March billing cycles. We also believe that the waiver is in the public interest for the February and March 1995 billing cycles, so that the new system may be properly installed.

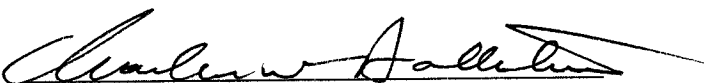
IS IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. Regulation 103-421 is hereby waived for Piedmont Natural Gas Company for the February and March 1995 billing cycles.
2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)